

# Occoneetchee Mountain State Natural Area

625 Virginia Cates Road  
Mailing: 6101 Cole Mill Road  
Durham, NC 27705-9275

(919) 383-1686

eno.river@ncparks.gov

GPS: 36.060835, -79.116900



## Activities

**Education and Events:** Rangers hold regularly scheduled educational and interpretive programs about Occoneetchee Mountain State Natural Area. Contact the park to receive a schedule of upcoming events. To arrange a special exploration of Occoneetchee Mountain State Natural Area for your group or class, contact the park office.



**Picnicking:** Picnic tables are available under shady oaks on the lawn near the parking lot. A vault toilet is near by.



**Trails:** Hiking the loop around Occoneetchee Mountain is an exhilarating walk over steep terrain and along the peaceful Eno River. Side trips on the Brown Elfin Knob and Overlook trails and the summit road take you through mature oak forest and to high scenic views. The trails traverse Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron thicket and are particularly beautiful when blooming mid-Spring.

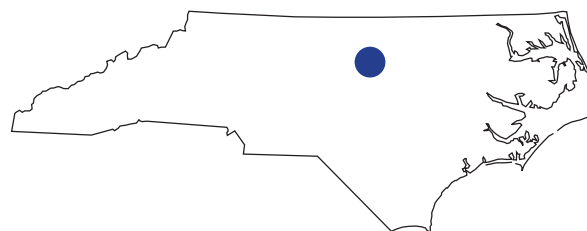


**Fishing:** Wet your line in two pretty little fishing ponds or one of the best fishing streams in the Neuse River Basin. The Occoneetchee ponds are great for catching bass and bream on worms, crickets, and lures. The Eno is a great place for fly-fishing, casting lures, or baiting with the ever reliable worms and crickets. Most of the river can be waded and there are many openings for bank fishing. Commonly caught game fish include largemouth bass, bluegill, redbreast sunfish, and the feisty Roanoke bass. Roanoke bass, locally know as "red-eye" are found in only four river drainages in northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Chubs and bullheads add to the fishing fun. All North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission fishing regulations are enforced.

Rising more than 350 feet from the Eno River, the Occoneetchee Mountain summit is the highest point in Orange County. The summit is also reported to be the highest point between Hillsborough, NC, and the Atlantic Ocean.

Occoneetchee Mountain State Natural Area has been recognized as one of the most important natural areas in the Triangle. The various habitats found on the mountain support species that are rare and significant in this region. With 190 acres of land and more than three miles of trails, visitors can experience a wide variety of the area's natural surroundings and wildlife.

## Location



From I-85, take exit 164. Turn north onto Churton Street. Turn left at the stoplight onto Mayo Street. Turn left at the stop sign onto Orange Grove Road. Turn right on Virginia Cates Road and follow signs to parking area.

## Park Hours

November - February ..... 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
March, April, September & October ..... 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
May - August ..... 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Closed Christmas Day



Please visit the North Carolina State Parks website or contact the park for **the most current information** about activities, alerts, camping, fees, hours, programs, reservations, rules, and weather.

[www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)

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